(c) The total number of Indian Missions/Posts functioning abroad on 1.1.1996 was 152 and on 1.1.2000 was 157. The number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category working against the posts of Ambassadors/ High commissioners/Consul Generals on 1.1.1996 was 25 [SC-18; ST-7] and on 1.1.2000 was 22 [SC-13; ST-9]

Backlog of Vacancies Reserved for SC/ST in Ministry of External Affairs

4922. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the Backlog of vacancies reserved for the SC/ST in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and results achieved, in any;

(c) if not, the rasons therefor;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on 1st January, 1993 in Class I, II, III, and IV category under the Ministry of External Affairs and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the backlog of vacancies as on 29th August, 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The overall guidelines for all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India with regard to filling up of posts for SC/ST/OBC candidates are formulated by the Department of Personnel and Training. The Ministry of External Affairs strictly adheres to these guidelines.

(a) and (e) The information in respect of the number of vacancies for SCs/ STs in the Ministry of External Affairs as on 1st January 1993 is placed below in a tabulated statement (See below). To fill up these vacancies, appropriate indents have been placed with Staff Selection Commission/Union Public Service Commission. The information in respect of the Statutory/autonomous and attached offices of the Ministry is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Unfilled vacancies as on 1.1.1993

Class	SC	ST
IFS	Nil	Nil
Class I [Grade I] of IFS [B]	Nil	3
Class II	13	14
Class III	18	7
Class IV	Nil	Nil

Backlog of vacancies as on 29.8.1997

Class	SC	ST
IFS*	Nil	Nil
Class I [Grade I] of IFS [B]	2	6
Class II	16	59
Class III	6	4
Class IV	Nil	Nil

Humiliation of Indian Workers Outside the Country

4923. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that highly skilled workers from India are lured to different countries including US and then treated like slaves;

(b) whether some highly skilled personnel have been hand-cuffed and humiliated for simple technicalities in countries like US;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to avoid any humiliation to Indians outside the country?